Lidar QaQc Report Hawaii TO26: Big Island, Oahu, and Kauai August 2007





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Lidar project covered the southern shores of 3 Hawaii islands (Big Island, Kauai and Oahu). The product is a mass point dataset with an average point spacing of 3ft. The data are tiled, stored in LAS format, and Lidar last returns are classified in 2 classes stored in two separated files: ground and extracted features.

Dewberry's Fairfax office performed quality control reviews of these data including a quantitative and a qualitative assessment.

First, the elevation meets the accuracy required for this project (accuracy equivalent to 2 ft contours according to FEMA *Guidelines and specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners*). To meet 2 ft contour accuracy, the data needed to be accurate to 1.19 ft at the 95% confidence level. These data were tested 0.51 ft (Hawaii), 0.99 ft (Kauai) and 0.69 ft (Oahu) fundamental vertical accuracy at 95 percent confidence level in open terrain using RMSE x 1.96 using 68, 68 and 64 survey points, respectively, for these islands.

Secondly, 50% of the tiles were reviewed at macro level for data completeness: all tiles were delivered and data are exempt of systematic errors except for several remotesensing data void (only one was localized under the 10m contour limit required by the contract and two at the upper limit). Spikes were removed from the ground product but kept in the extracted feature product. The cleanliness of the bare earth model was assessed on 20% of the tiles at micro level and meets the specifications. Minor errors were found (like sparse ground density in dense vegetation, cornrows and possible vegetation remains) but are not representative of the majority of the data.

In essence, this Lidar dataset is of good quality and meets the needs of FEMA and FEMA contractors for coastal mapping.



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QAQC REPORT

1 Introduction

Lidar technology data gives access to precise elevation measurements at a very high resolution resulting in a detailed definition of the earth's surface topography. As a consequence of this precision, millions of points with potential measurement and processing accuracy issues must be verified. This constitutes a challenge from the quality assessment aspect. Our expertise is to provide both a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the Lidar mass points and its usability for coastal mapping.

First of all, a Quantitative analysis addresses the quality of the data based on absolute accuracy of a limited collection of discrete checkpoint survey measurements. As the accuracy is tested in several land cover types (open terrain, vegetated areas) but always at ground level, the classification accuracy is indirectly evaluated. Lidar ground points will be consistent with survey ground points in vegetated areas only if the vegetation is correctly removed by classification and if the Lidar penetrated the canopy to the ground. Although only a small amount of points are actually tested through the quantitative assessment, there is an increased level of confidence with Lidar data due to the relative accuracy. This relative accuracy in turn is based on how well one Lidar point "fits" in comparison to the next contiguous Lidar measurement as acquisition conditions remain similar from one point to the next.

To fully address the data for overall accuracy and quality, a qualitative review for anomalies and artifacts is also conducted based on the expertise of Dewberry's analysts. As no automatic method exists yet, we perform a manual visualization assessment. This includes creating pseudo image products such as 3-dimensional models. By creating multiple images and using overlay techniques, not only can potential errors be found, but we can also find where the data meets and exceeds expectations.

Within this Quality assurance-Quality control process, three fundamental questions were addressed:

- Was the data complete?
- Did the Lidar system perform to specifications?
- Did the ground classification process yield desirable results for the intended bare-earth terrain product?



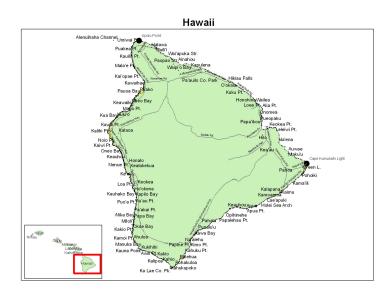
2 Quality Assurance

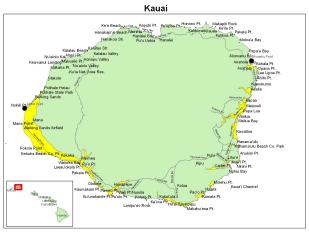
2.1 Completeness of Lidar deliverables

Once the data are acquired and processed, the first step in our review is to inventory the data delivered, to validate the format, projection, georeferencing and verify if elevations fall within an acceptable range.

2.1.1 Inventory and location of data

The goal of this project was to collect Lidar data for the southern shores of 3 Hawaii islands: Big Island, Kauai and Oahu. No definitive boundary was defined by FEMA for this project. The limits were based on two criteria; geographic coastal start and end points and a requirement to include the coast up to the 10 meter contour elevation as illustrated at Figure 1. This data will be used to perform the Hurricane Study for the Hawaiian Islands.





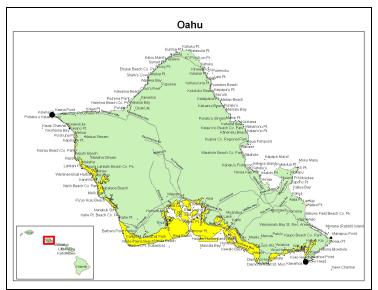


Figure 1 - Project limits (black dots) and indicated 10ft contour

Lidar data were correctly acquired by our subcontractor Airborne 1 along the southern shorelines and they met the 10m contour requirement; actually, data were acquired largely above this threshold.

Data were provided in LAS format 1.0 and points were separated in two files:

- Ground Last Return (classification code 2)
- Extracted feature Last Return (classification code 1)

The average point distance is 3 ft and meets the specifications.

After asking for a reprojection of Kauai which was initially delivered in UTM meters, we verified that all data are in Hawaii State Plane coordinates referenced to the appropriate zone (zone 1 for Big Island, zone 3 for Oahu and zone 4 for Kauai) referenced to the NAD 83 horizontal datum, the elevations are orthometric heights referenced to Local Mean Sea Level¹ (typically referred to as local tidal datum).

All files were delivered, covering the entire required area (see Figure 2 and Figure 3). For the Big Island, we had to remove duplicate tiles submitted in two different deliveries.

Table 1 – Number of tiles delivered Island Number of unique LAS files

Big Island 1075 Kauai 286 Oahu 434

¹ NAVD88 or NGVD29 does not exist for Hawaii

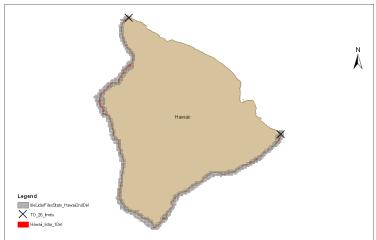


Figure 2 - Inventory of the Las files; Hawaii

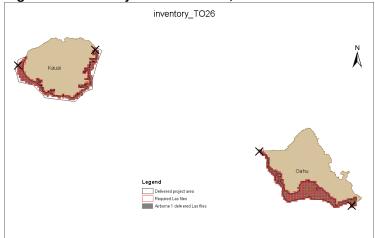


Figure 3 – Inventory of the Las files; Kauai and Oahu islands

2.1.2 Statistical analysis of tile content

To verify the contents of the data and to validate the data integrity, a statistical analysis is performed on all the data. This process allows us to statistically review 100% of the data to identify any gross outliers. This statistical analysis consists of:

- 1. Extract the header information
- 2. Read the actual records and compute the number of points, minimum, maximum and mean elevation for ground class
- 3. Compare the Lidar file extent with the tile extent.

> Big Island:

Each tile was queried to extract the number of Lidar points and all tiles are within the anticipated size range, except for where fewer points are expected (near the project boundary or in water) as illustrated in Figure 4. To first identify incorrect elevations, the z-minimum and z-maximum values for the ground class were reviewed. Figure 5 shows the minimum elevation value for each tile. Lowest values were found in water. In addition, Figure 6 illustrates the tiles with the highest elevation values. We verified that highest z-maximum values in ground files are legitimate Lidar points on top of cliffs (Figure 7).

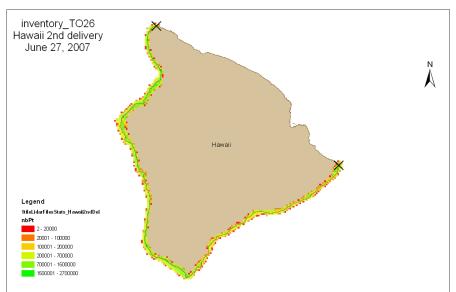


Figure 4 - Number of points per tile (ground LAS files, mean: 500000 points)

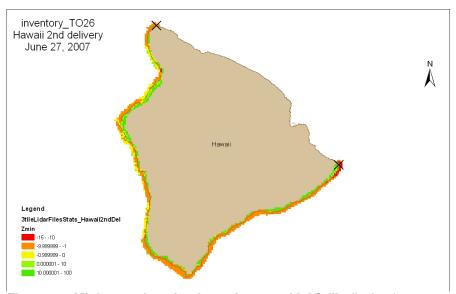


Figure 5 – Minimum elevation in each ground LAS file (in feet)

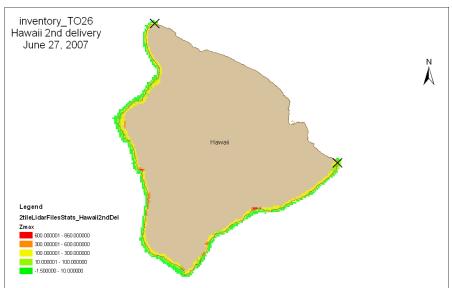


Figure 6 - Maximum elevation in each ground LAS file (in feet)

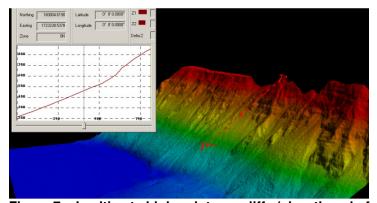


Figure 7 – Legitimate high points on cliffs (elevations in feet)

Kauai:

The number of Lidar points per tile is within the anticipated size range, except for where fewer points are expected (near the project boundary). Figure 8 presents a map of the number of records in each LAS file (ground).

Figure 9 shows the z min value for each tile; a lot of files contain negative minimum z (167 files). About 40 files have minimum values below -1.5 m², for the most part, they are partially covered with water and the negative values are situated in water, except for tile 001222 where a divot was found illustrated in Figure 10. The other files with negative elevations do not exhibit noticeable anomalies; the lowest values are situated in ditches or in riverbeds for instance.

Figure 11 illustrates the tiles with the highest elevation values. We verified that all highest z-maximum values on ground files are legitimate Lidar points on mountains.

² The first delivery of Kauai data was projected in UTM meters, the inventory was performed on this delivery, therefore elevations are given in m. Note that the final data are in NAD83 State Plane Hawaii Zone 4, feet.

However, extracted feature files contain spikes as illustrated in Figure 12. Such anomalies are normal and they were correctly removed from the ground dataset, but this may imply a preprocessing of the data if the extracted features need to be used.

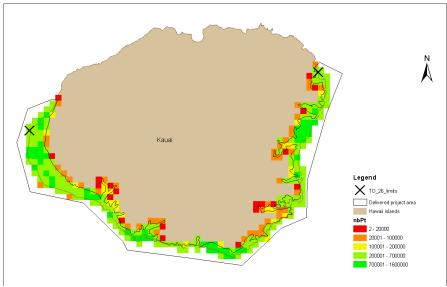


Figure 8 - Number of points per tile (ground LAS files)

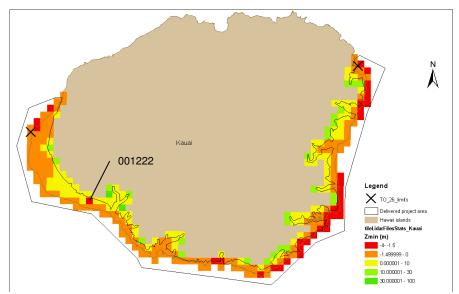


Figure 9 – Minimum elevation in each LAS file (in meters)

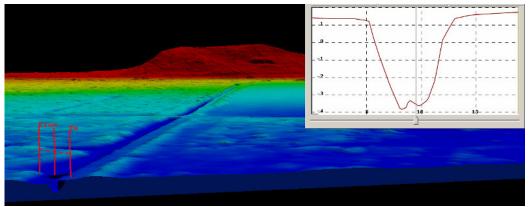


Figure 10 – Minimum elevation value of -4m: divot in tile 001222

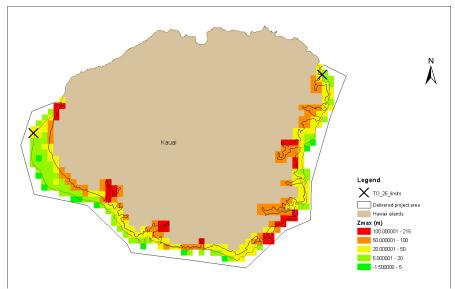


Figure 11 - Maximum elevation in each LAS file (in meters)

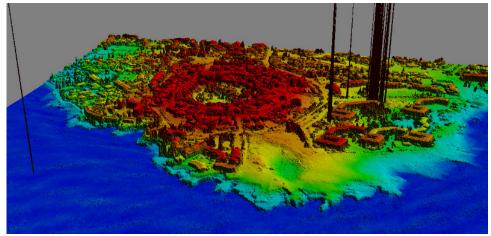


Figure 12 – Spikes in extracted feature tile 001545



> Oahu

As previously stated, the number of Lidar points for each tile is lower along the coast and the project boundary. Figure 13 presents a map of the number of records in each LAS file (ground).

Figure 14 shows the z minimum value for each tile; it can be noticed that all the files with the lowest elevation are situated along the shoreline or along a bay. Minimum elevation values lower than -40 ft have been found in three files situated over a harbor, in what seems to be maritime canals (see Figure 15), proving that these low elevation values are legitimate. In addition, we can see on Figure 16 that the tiles with the highest elevation values are situated inland and we have verified that all highest elevations values are legitimate Lidar points on mountains.

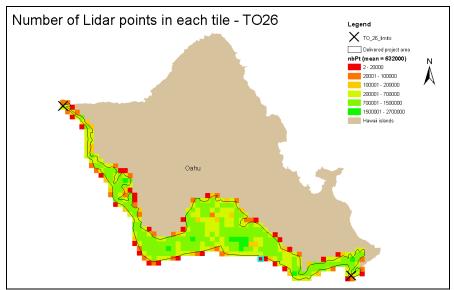


Figure 13 - Number of points per tile (ground LAS files)

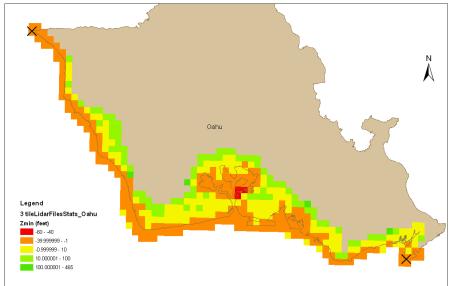


Figure 14 - Minimum elevation in each ground LAS file

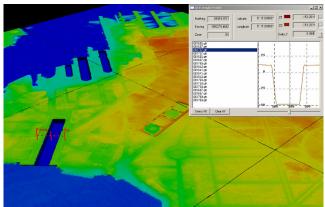


Figure 15 – Minimum value around -50 ft in maritime canals (Tile 001737)

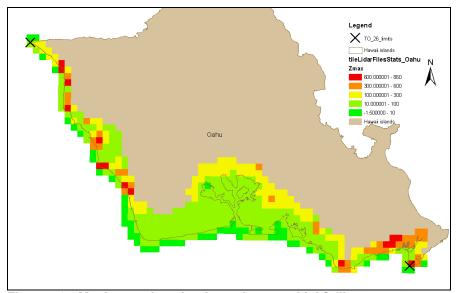


Figure 16 - Maximum elevation in each ground LAS file

2.2 Quantitative assessment

2.2.1 Inventory of survey points

Dewberry is using an independent verification survey to verify the accuracy of the Lidar data. Detailed survey reports can be found in **Error! Reference source not found.**.

To satisfy FEMA Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners (Section A.6.4 of Appendix A) a minimum of 20 checkpoints per land cover representative of the floodplain should be surveyed. In this project area three land cover types were considered representative:

- 1. Open bare-earth terrain sand, dirt, rock, short grass (less than 0.5 feet)
- 2. Weeds, Crop and Forested areas tall grass, crops, bushes, deciduous trees
- 3. Urban paved streets, parking lots, areas of buildings

All check points used and the associated errors are provided in **Error! Reference** source not found. of this document.



2.2.2 Vertical Accuracy: elevation comparison

Using the ground truth checkpoint survey as the reference, elevations at the same x and y positions are interpolated from the Lidar data. The method used to extract the elevation from the Lidar mass points at a given location is to create a triangular irregular network from the ground classified points and to interpolate the elevation at the given x and y coordinates using the 3 nearest Lidar neighbors. To compare the two types of measured elevations, statistics are then computed following two different guidelines further explained in the following sections.

2.2.3 Vertical Accuracy Assessment Using the RMSE Methodology

The first method of testing vertical accuracy will use the FEMA specifications which essentially follows the National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA) procedures. The accuracy is reported at 95% confidence level using the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) which is valid when errors follow a normal distribution. To be equivalent to 2 ft contours, the vertical RMSE should be \leq 0.61 ft, and vertical accuracy at the 95% confidence level should be \leq 1.19 ft (based on RMSE x 1.96). This methodology measures the square root of the average of the set of squared differences between dataset coordinate values and coordinate values from an independent source of higher accuracy for identical points. The vertical accuracy assessment compares the measured survey checkpoint elevations with those of the TIN as generated from the bare-earth Lidar. The survey checkpoint's X/Y location is overlaid on the TIN and the interpolated Z value is recorded. This interpolated Z value is then compared to the survey checkpoint Z value and this difference represents the amount of error between the measurements. The following tables and graphs outline the vertical accuracy and the statistics of the associated errors.

Concerning Big Island, the consolidated RMSE (0.35 ft) meets the specifications. The mean and the median were fairly high indicating that the data has a positive bias, this is also enhanced by Figure 17 which illustrates the distribution of the elevation differences between the Lidar data and the surveyed points by land cover type, sorted from lowest to highest. Moreover, the maximum and skew had high ranges, showing that the errors are non-symmetrically distributed.

Finally, one point was considered as a legitimate outlier and removed from the computations as the survey point was located 5.03 ft above the ground Lidar surface which has no apparent anomaly (point no 608).

Table 2 – Big Island: Descriptive statistics (FEMA guidelines) by land cover category

100 % of Totals	RMSE (ft) Spec=0.61ft	Mean (ft)	Median (ft)	Skew	Std Dev (ft)	# of Points	Min (ft)	Max (ft)
Consolidated	0.35	0.18	0.18	0.50	0.30	68	-0.56	1.01
Open Terrain	0.26	0.11	0.13	0.98	0.24	24	-0.31	0.86
Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.47	0.31	0.27	0.36	0.36	23	-0.36	1.01
Urban	0.29	0.13	0.20	-0.89	0.27	21	-0.56	0.50

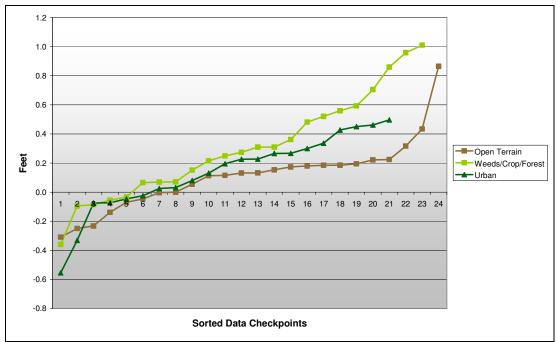


Figure 17 – Big Island: Elevation differences between the interpolated Lidar and the surveyed QAQC checkpoints

Concerning Kauai Island, the consolidated RMSE (0.45 ft) meets the specifications. In this case, the mean and the median were negatives indicating that the data has a negative bias (see Figure 18). Moreover, the minimum, maximum and skew had high ranges (except for open terrain), showing that the errors are not symmetrically distributed. However, all the differences remain within acceptable ranges and do not constitute an issue.

Table 3 – Kauai: Descriptive statistics (FEMA guidelines) by land cover category

100 % of Totals	RMSE (ft) Spec=0.61ft	Mean (ft)	Median (ft)	Skew	Std Dev (ft)	# of Points	Min (ft)	Max (ft)
Consolidated	0.452	-0.287	-0.307	0.202	0.352	68	-1.250	0.691
Open Terrain	0.503	-0.411	-0.320	-1.215	0.297	20	-1.250	0.041
Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.409	-0.123	-0.175	-0.026	0.399	24	-0.976	0.691
Urban	0.447	-0.346	-0.389	0.529	0.289	24	-0.917	0.411

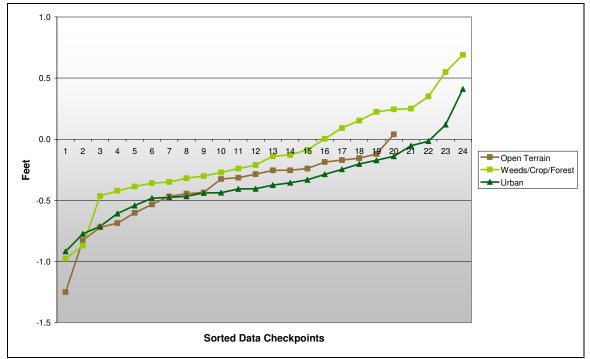


Figure 18 – Kauai: Elevation differences between the interpolated Lidar and the surveyed QAQC checkpoints

Concerning Oahu Island, the consolidated RMSE (0.37 ft) meets the specifications. As for Kauai, the mean and the median were negatives (except for the weeds/crops/forest category) indicating that the data might have a negative bias. Moreover, the minimum, maximum and skew had high ranges, showing that the errors are non-symmetrically distributed either.

Table 4 - Oahu: Descriptive statistics (FEMA guidelines) by land cover category

100 % of Totals	RMSE (ft) Spec=0.61ft	Mean (ft)	Median (ft)	Skew	Std Dev (ft)	# of Points	Min (ft)	Max (ft)
Consolidated	0.37	-0.18	-0.22	0.96	0.33	64	-1.00	0.99
Open Terrain	0.35	-0.27	-0.26	-1.46	0.23	22	-1.00	0.01
Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.39	0.06	-0.08	0.81	0.40	20	-0.45	0.99
Urban	0.37	-0.30	-0.28	-0.45	0.22	22	-0.72	0.04

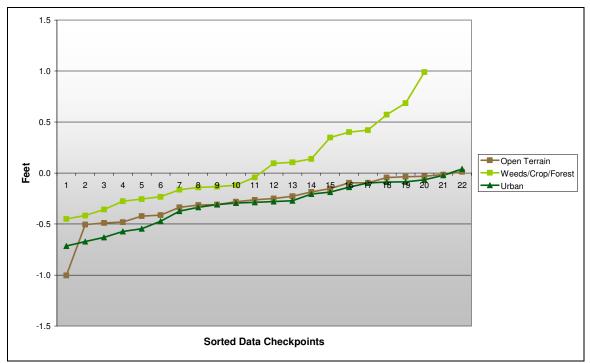
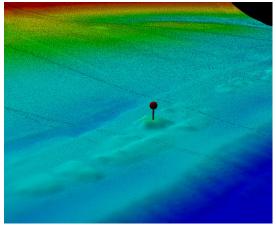


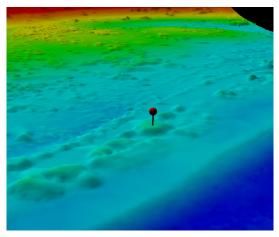
Figure 19 – Oahu: Elevation differences between the interpolated Lidar and the surveyed QAQC checkpoints

Moreover, one outlier was removed from the dataset for Oahu Island. This point has an error of 5.7 ft and the associated survey photo shows that this is a dense forested area (about 5 ft high estimated on Figure 20). We can notice on Figure 21, by comparing the Lidar model built with the extracted features files and the bare earth Lidar model, that the vegetation has not been extracted at the precise location of the survey point. This could explain the high discrepancy between the measured elevation and the Lidar elevation. This outlier survey checkpoint was influencing the overall Root Mean Square Error especially for the vegetated land cover type. Consequently, it has been discarded.



Figure 20 – Survey photo of outlier (point 103)





Check point 103 with bare earth model and Lidar points

Check point 103 with extracted feature model

Figure 21 – Check point with erroneous Lidar elevation (possibility that the vegetation has not been properly removed)

2.2.4 Vertical Accuracy Assessment Using the NDEP Methodology

The RMSE method assumes that the errors follow a normal distribution and experience has shown that this is not always the case as vegetation and manmade structures can limit the ground detection causing errors greater than in unobstructed terrain. The NDEP methodology therefore assumes that the data does not follow a normal distribution and tests the open terrain (bare-earth ground) separately from other ground cover types.

The Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA) at the 95% confidence level equals 1.96 times the RMSE in open terrain only (as previously explained: the RMSE methodology is appropriate in open terrain). Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA) at the 95% confidence level utilizes the 95th percentile error individually for each of the other land cover categories, which may have valid reasons (e.g. problems with vegetation classification) why errors do not follow a normal distribution. Similarly the Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA) at the 95% confidence level utilizes the 95th percentile error for all land cover categories combined. This NDEP methodology is used on all 100% of the checkpoints.

The target objective for this project was to achieve bare-earth elevation data with an accuracy equivalent to 2 ft contours, which equates to an RMSE of 0.61 ft when errors follow a normal distribution. With these criteria, the Fundamental Vertical Accuracy of 1.19 ft must be met. Furthermore, it is desired that the consolidated Vertical Accuracy and each of the Supplemental Vertical Accuracy statistics also meet the 1.19 ft criteria to ensure that elevations are also accurate in vegetated areas. As summarized in Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found., this data:

- Does satisfy the NDEP's mandatory Fundamental Vertical Accuracy criteria for 2 ft contours.
- Does satisfy the NDEP's target Supplemental Vertical Accuracy criteria for 2 ft contours.
- Does satisfy the NDEP's mandatory Consolidated Vertical Accuracy criteria for 2 ft contours.



Table 5 - Accuracy using NDEP methodology; Hawaii

Land Cover Category	# of Points	FVA — Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (RMSE _z x 1.9600) Spec=1.19 ft	CVA — Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (95 th Percentile) Spec=1.19 ft	SVA — Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (95 th Percentile) Target=1.19 ft
Consolidated	68		0.805	
Open Terrain	24	0.511		0.416
Weeds/Crop/Forest	23			0.948
Urban	21			0.497

Table 6 - Accuracy using NDEP methodology; Kauai

Land Cover Category	# of Points	FVA — Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (RMSEz x 1.9600) Spec=1.19 ft	CVA — Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (95th Percentile) Spec=1.19 ft	SVA — Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (95th Percentile) Target=1.19 ft
Consolidated	68		0.854	
Open Terrain	20	0.986		0.847
Weeds/Crop/Forest	24			0.843
Urban	24			0.764

Table 7 - Accuracy using NDEP methodology; Oahu

Land Cover Category	# of Points	FVA — Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (RMSE _z x 1.9600) Spec=1.19 ft	CVA — Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (95 th Percentile) Spec=1.19 ft	SVA — Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (95 th Percentile) Target=1.19 ft
Consolidated	64		0.684	
Open Terrain	22	0.691	_	0.505
Weeds/Crop/Forest	20		_	0.701
Urban	22			0.670

2.2.5 Vertical Accuracy Conclusion

Although the errors exhibits non symmetrical behavior that could imply a possible slight offset of the Lidar data, the 3 islands meets both methods of vertical accuracy testing. This data is of good quality and should satisfy most users for high accuracy digital terrain models.



2.3 Qualitative assessment

2.3.1 Protocol

The goal of this qualitative review is to assess the continuity and the level of cleanliness of the data. The acceptance criteria we have reviewed are the following:

- > If the density of point is homogeneous and sufficient to meet the user needs,
- If the ground points have been correctly classified (no manmade structures and vegetation remains, no gap except over water bodies),
- ➤ If the ground surface model exhibits a correct definition (no aggressive removal, no over-smoothing, no inconsistency in the post-processing), in a context of flood modeling a special attention is given to the stream channels and coastal definition.
- If no obvious anomaly due to sensor malfunction or systematic processing artifact is present (data holidays, spikes, divots, ridges between tiles, cornrows...).

Dewberry analysts, experienced in evaluating LIDAR data, performed a visual inspection of a bare-earth digital elevation model (DEM). Lidar mass points are first gridded with a grid distance of 1.7 times the full point cloud resolution. Then, a triangulated network is built based on this gridded DEM and is displayed as a 3D surface. A shaded relief effect is applied which enhances 3D rendering. The software used for visualization allows the user to navigate, zoom and rotate models and to display elevation information with an adaptive color coding in order to better identify anomalies.

One of the variables established when creating the models is the threshold for missing data. For each individual triangle, the point density information is stored, if it meets the threshold, the corresponding surface will be displayed in green, if not it will be displayed in red (see Figure 22).

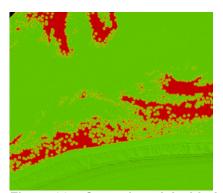


Figure 22 – Ground model with density information (red means no data)

The first step of our qualitative workflow is therefore to verify data completeness and continuity using the bare-earth DEM with density information, displayed at a macro level. If, during this macro review of the ground models, we find potential artifacts or large voids, we use the digital surface model (DSM) based on the full point cloud including vegetation and buildings to help us better pinpoint the extent and the cause of the issue. Moreover, the intensity information stored in Lidar data can be visualized over this surface model, helping in interpretation of the terrain.



Finally, in case the analyst suspects a systematic errors relating to data collection, a visualization of the 3D raw mass points is performed, rather than visualizing as a surface. This particular type of display helps us visualize and better understand the scan pattern and the flight line orientation.

The process of importing, comparing and analyzing these two later types of models (DSM with intensity and raw mass point), along with cross section extraction, surface measurements, density evaluation, constitutes our micro level of review.

2.3.2 Quality report

As stated in the scope of work, we reviewed 50% of all bare earth models, uniformly distributed over the all flown area as illustrated in Figure 23, Figure 24, and Figure 25. Contact sheets of all potential issues found are provided in **Error! Reference source not found.**

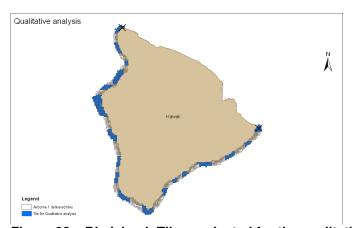


Figure 23 - Big Island: Tiles evaluated for the qualitative analysis

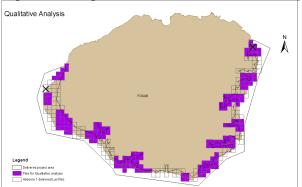


Figure 24 - Kauai: Tiles evaluated for the qualitative analysis

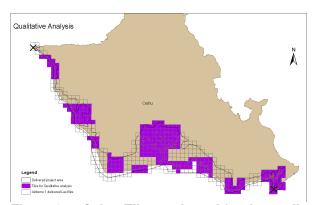


Figure 25 - Oahu: Tiles evaluated for the qualitative analysis

Overall, the bare earth model is consistent and of good quality, providing an adequate definition of the coast as seen in Figure 26. Although we observed that the ground was sometimes noisy or sparse in densely vegetated area, we believe that these errors were not serious enough to render the data unusable for the user's needs. Several data holidays exist that may require further processing for specific applications, however it should be noted that the majority of them were located above the 10m contour limit required by the contract. Therefore they are not expected to impact hurricane modeling. A list of the data holidays is provided in Table 8; only 3 of them were under or at the limit of the 10m boundary

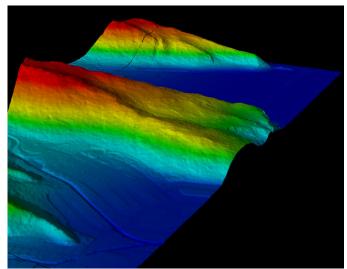


Figure 26 - Tile 2079: Good coastal definition

Table 8 – Data holidays under and above the 10m contour

Island	Tile	Area (sq ft)	elevation m	Above 10m
Hawaii	2373	2000000	80ft	yes
Hawaii	8063	633152	40ft	limit
Oahu	1827	121528	60ft	yes
Oahu	1937	131762	1ft	no
Oahu	2031	21140	45ft	yes
Oahu	2171	46121	17ft	limit on cliff
Kauai	693	470000	150ft	yes

> Big island

The types of issues more frequently encountered are:

- 1. Poor Lidar penetration in dense vegetated areas
- 2. Sparse points along shoreline
- 3. Void areas
- 4. Cleanliness of artifacts (possible vegetation and building remains)

A large part of the south shores of this island are lava bare earth areas with almost no vegetation. In this case, ground models are exceptionally clean and well defined (Figure 27).

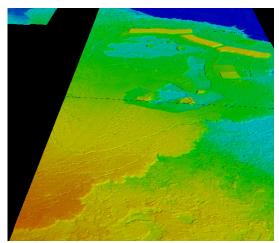
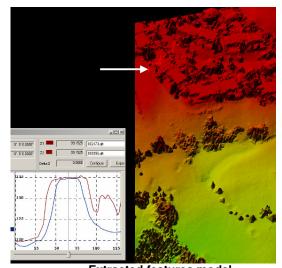
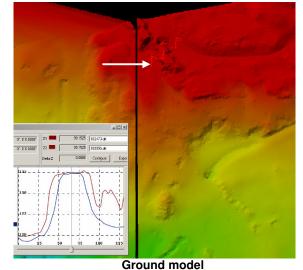


Figure 27 - Tile 3329; Clean lava bare earth area

In a few isolated tiles, potential artifacts were found in built-up zones (Figure 28) most likely due to a misclassification. Due to the large spectrum of geographic patterns, there are instances where the algorithms erroneously classify the data. However it is evident that these potential areas are relatively small and do not require additional process.



Extracted features model
Figure 28 – Possible building remains, tile 1543



On the east side, we noticed instances of scattered points. Two different causes were found (both cases are illustrated in the same tile in Figure 29).

Firstly, we encountered a low density of ground points in really thick vegetation. It is believed that this may be caused by a poor penetration of the Lidar beam through the leaves and branches because of their density. However the few ground points where the Lidar did actually penetrate are sufficient to define a bare earth model.

Secondly, small fringes of land situated along the coast have a low density of points in both bare earth and in extracted features files. As a consequence, the coast is less precisely defined, however the remaining elevations are in essence correct, keeping the general integrity of the resulting model.

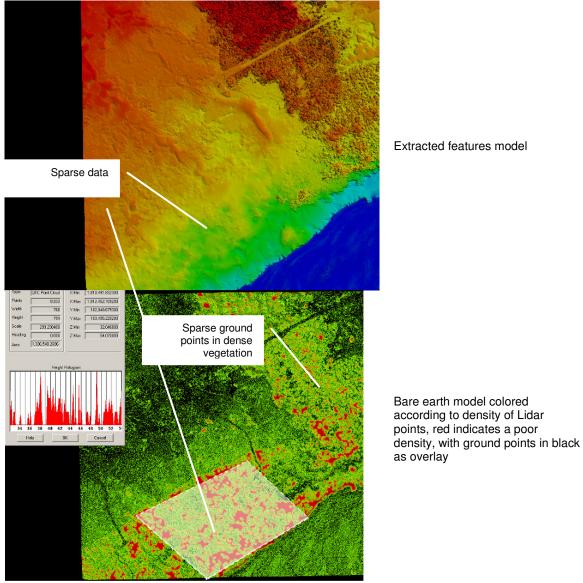


Figure 29 – Low density in dense vegetation (upper right corner) and along coast (middle lower part). Tile 10197

Sparse density along coast line occurred on a fairly large portion of the coast (Figure 30) in a volcanically active region (an eruption has occurred in August-September 2006 in East Ka'ili'lli, correlation with the date of flight must be made). We therefore assume that the Lidar beam was stopped by fumes rising from the sea where lava encounters water as illustrated in Figure 31.

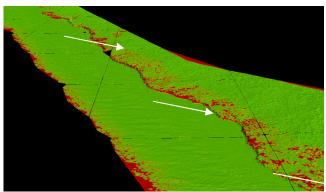


Figure 30 – Low density of points along coast (around tile 10324)

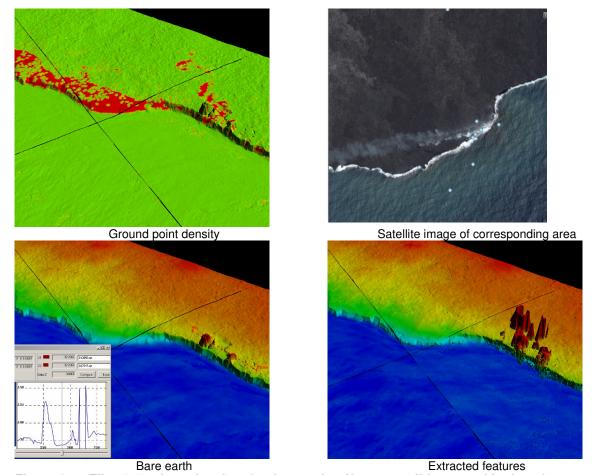
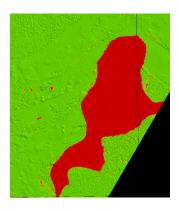
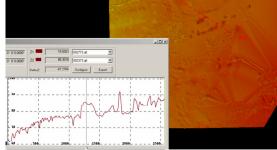


Figure 31 - Tile 10464, Low density of points and artifacts possibly caused by lava fumes



Finally, two data holidays from 14 to 45 acres have been encountered in the Big Island (see example in Figure 32 and Figure 33). These data holidays may be caused by a failure of the emission or acquisition system.





Bare earth colored by elevation with cross section (in red)

Bare earth colored by density

Figure 32 – Data holiday of about 45 acres along the project boundary starting at an elevation of 90 feet, tile 2373

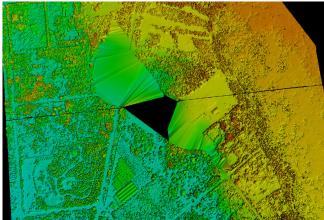


Figure 33 - Data holiday of about 14 acres starting at an elevation of 40 feet, tile 8064

Kauai

The types of issues more frequently encountered in Kauai are:

- 1. Cleanliness of artifacts (possible noise and vegetation remains)
- 2. Sparse density on slopes,
- 3. Confusion of tile coverage at the project boundary (non requested tiles)
- 4. Poor Lidar penetration in dense vegetated areas and/or aggressive removal of vegetation,
- 5. Bundles of spikes in extracted feature cloud data,
- 6. Divots in ground models
- 7. Data holiday (above 10m),



As previously explained, classification algorithms may sometimes miss some vegetated area as illustrated at Figure 34; nevertheless the cleanliness of the data remains good at a global level.

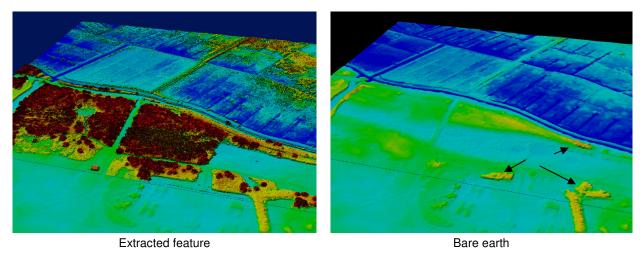


Figure 34 – Tile 0795; Possible vegetation remains

Along the project boundary, the tiles are supposed to be clipped, Figure 35 illustrates two tiles not clipped along the polygon delivered with data whereas the adjacent tiles were clipped, and this creates what seem to be data voids where data were not actually required. Although it may create confusion, we do not consider this as an issue.

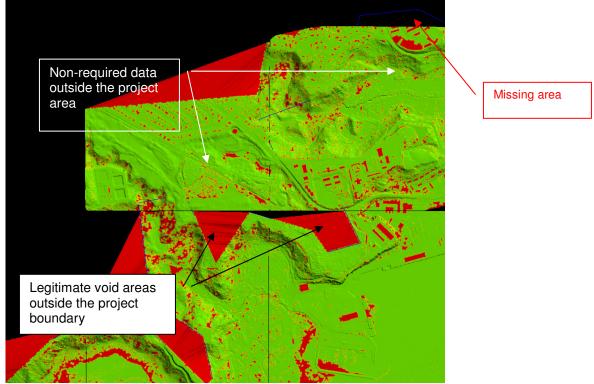


Figure 35 – Tile 1334; Non-requested data outside the project boundary (light blue line) apparently causes data holidays (symbolized in red in this point density model) and one tile with a small area is missing.



What typically is seen throughout the project is sparse density of ground points in thick vegetation. However, ground points are still regularly available as seen in Figure 36, allowing a fair definition of a bare earth model, the trails or irrigation canals are still easily identifiable.

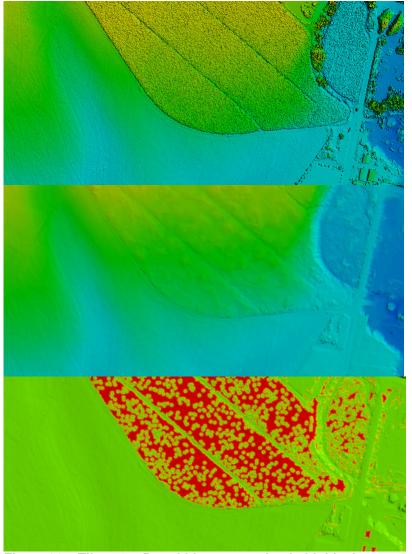


Figure 36 – Tile 1495; Poor Lidar penetration in highly dense vegetated area (top: extracted feature model; middle: bare earth model; bottom: density model – red is sparse data)



Extracted spikes were found, sometime associated with data holidays indicating a temporary problem in the emission/acquisition system (see Figure 37).

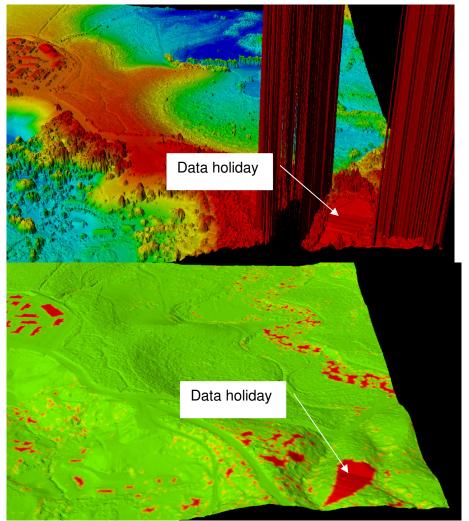


Figure 37 – Tile 0693; Spikes in the extracted feature model (top) and hole in data visible in both images (bottom: ground point density model). These anomalies are above the 10m boundary.

> Oahu

The types of issues more frequently encountered in Oahu are:

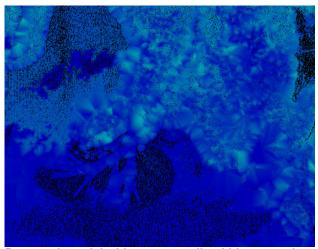
- 1. Cleanliness of artifacts (noise and building remains)
- 2. Data holidays (missing Lidar points, few acres),
- 3. Poor Lidar penetration in dense vegetated areas and/or aggressive removal of vegetation leaving almost no ground points.
- 4. Noise in flat bare earth areas (possible aggressive classification)
- 5. "Cornrow" effect
- 6. Spikes in extracted features
- 7. Divots in ground models

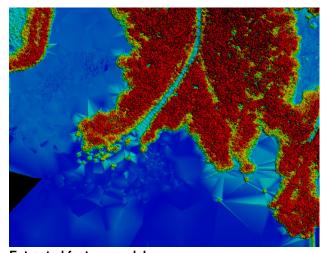
The following figures illustrate the type of errors specific to Oahu Island.



Figure 38 – Tile 2171; Data holiday. Bare earth models colored according to the density of points (red symbolized the lack of data), overlaid with the extracted points in white

As previously explained, dense vegetation causes sparse ground data. In the case illustrated in Figure 39, Lidar seems to struggle to penetrate as almost no points are left on land. Consequently, the bare earth model lacks definition in this area. The majority of points visible in Figure 39-left are Lidar points over water; a direct reflection on water is indeed possible at a very low angle of scan. In addition, users should be aware that the contract for acquisition and processing identified only two classes: Class "1" for unclassified and Class "2" for ground. There is no distinction for water and therefore some water points may be classified as ground since their elevations are equal to the surrounding ground points.





Bare earth model with corresponding Lidar ground points in black

Extracted feature model

Figure 39 – Tile 1578. Really densely vegetated area along coast, very few points left on ground

Cornrows were sporadically seen throughout Oahu. There are multiple reasons as to why this happens but the end result is that adjacent scan lines are slightly offset from each other. This will give the effect that there are alternating rows of higher, and then lower elevations. Although this is common with Lidar data, as long as the elevation differences are less than 20 cm and that the occurrences are minimized, it is acceptable since it is within the noise and accuracy levels. However this also can be an indication that the sensor is mis-calibrated, or offsets exist between adjacent flight lines so each area identified is analyzed (Figure 40). Another type of noise possibly caused by the acquisition process is presented Figure 41, with small dimples aligned with the scan line contrasting with the general smoothness of the neighboring bare earth; however this remains a minor issue, and the "dimples" could really exist.

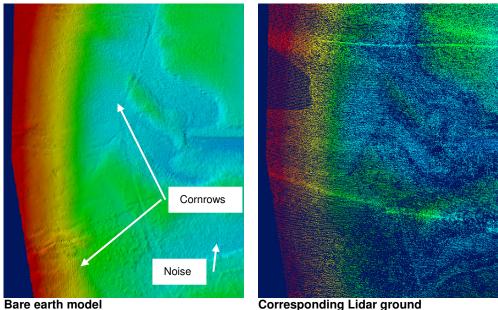


Figure 40 – Tile 0508 Noisy bare earth and cornrows within acceptable ranges

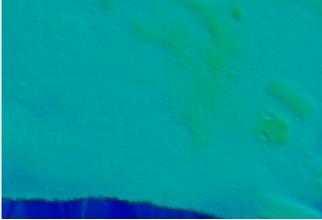


Figure 41 - Tile 1897; Dimples in bare earth model

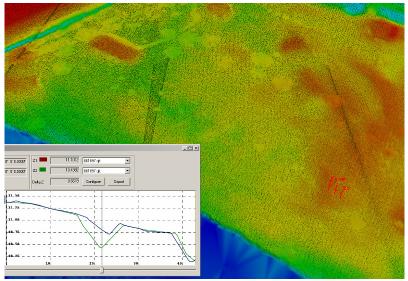


Figure 42 – Tile 1897; Detail of one dimple in bare earth model with ground points overlaid in black; the green cross section corresponds to the model, the blue one to the point cloud

Typical of most Lidar sensors, anomalies of isolated low points termed 'divots' can be found intermittently throughout the project. Although it is a fairly common occurrence most of the elevations are incorrect for only one point which causes the depressions. Figure 43 illustrates one point located in the middle of a built-up area that is over 5 ft deep which we can assume is not correct. Although this data does contain potential divots, there are very few to warrant reprocessing.

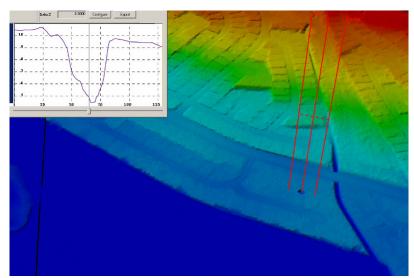


Figure 43 – Divot (elevations in feet)



3 Conclusion

Overall, the data exhibit a good quality and meet the specifications for both the absolute and relative accuracy. Underneath dense vegetation, which limits the Lidar penetration the quality is slightly reduced. The level of cleanliness for the bare-earth terrain is satisfying. Several data holidays are present in these data; however the majority of them is above the 10m contour limit and is not expected to impact hurricane modeling. Although generally isolated, they would need special care from the end-user. These issues remain minor and are not representative of the majority of the data; we are confident that these data are suitable for coastal modeling.

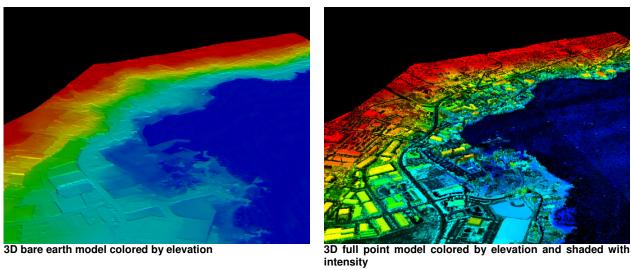


Figure 44 - Hawaii. This is an excellent example of the level of details given by the data



Appendix A Control survey reports

See 3 attached PDF: Survey Report-Hawaii.pdf Survey Report-rev_Kauai.pdf Survey Report-rev_Oahu.pdf



Appendix B Control points and corresponding Lidar elevation

Hawaii

pointNo	е	n	elevation	zLidar	LandCoverType	DeltaZ
513	1874006.324	239591.745	10.597	10.288	Open Terrain	-0.310
507	1874506.848	242780.650	9.842	9.592	Open Terrain	-0.250
502	1875569.707	240407.524	6.824	6.591	Open Terrain	-0.233
630	1481018.987	263802.294	19.390	19.250	Open Terrain	-0.139
530	1867267.985	227251.809	6.266	6.197	Open Terrain	-0.070
510	1875977.810	244044.919	16.535	16.489	Open Terrain	-0.046
650	1637612.637	108789.809	26.083	26.078	Open Terrain	-0.005
654	1639303.414	109970.285	8.891	8.890	Open Terrain	-0.001
636	1500207.006	128149.777	43.471	43.525	Open Terrain	0.054
639	1501267.929	132686.480	25.787	25.900	Open Terrain	0.112
629	1481583.946	265150.323	32.808	32.924	Open Terrain	0.115
628	1479862.526	268561.733	26.968	27.100	Open Terrain	0.131
623	1473311.948	286912.385	23.031	23.163	Open Terrain	0.132
621	1470774.060	292113.294	11.352	11.505	Open Terrain	0.153
640	1500821.408	134647.369	35.039	35.212	Open Terrain	0.173
525	1495246.222	229883.858	23.360	23.539	Open Terrain	0.180
642	1501747.850	135991.099	32.940	33.124	Open Terrain	0.184
519	1498495.264	213102.920	7.579	7.764	Open Terrain	0.185
641	1501574.228	135329.749	43.143	43.337	Open Terrain	0.194
624	1474862.273	283059.276	10.335	10.556	Open Terrain	0.221
526	1494711.971	229265.486	16.043	16.267	Open Terrain	0.224
644	1502844.534	137021.445	35.335	35.651	Open Terrain	0.316
610	1528535.919	426160.926	17.093	17.527	Open Terrain	0.434
655	1623076.478	91686.923	10.794	11.659	Open Terrain	0.865
609	1529568.201	432858.714	21.489	21.129	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.360
506	1873607.998	242537.868	14.665	14.570	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.095
647	1636341.412	107502.607	10.105	10.019	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.086
504	1875590.179	240746.599	7.743	7.687	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.056
651	1638274.545	108842.400	7.940	7.906	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.033
648	1636685.014	108028.688	15.682	15.747	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.065
529	1870155.380	231126.998	11.581	11.650	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.069
649	1637064.410	108612.644	20.374	20.445	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.071
606	1524473.329	441071.395	31.890	32.041	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.151
605	1525811.286	439329.863	37.861	38.076	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.215
620	1468957.134	293746.853	11.942	12.191	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.249
613	1526932.248	418295.686	22.146	22.419	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.273
512	1874801.598	240328.391	14.239	14.548	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.309
627	1479443.465	270317.668	7.644	7.954	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.309
518	1498767.311	212306.104	10.761	11.123	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.362
622	1472841.083	287785.186	10.171	10.652	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.481
611	1528912.821	427558.200	14.993	15.514	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.521
524	1496002.979	231291.138	27.034	27.593	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.559
614	1527343.829	419059.759	32.349	32.941	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.592
TU0011 *	1577603.341	28868.446	33.268	33.973	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.705
503	1874503.600	240809.656	17.290	18.149	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.859
657	1627772.138	97648.558	39.993	40.951	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.958
656	1624072.211	93163.528	16.634	17.644	Weeds/Crop/Forest	1.010
511	1874510.227	238496.111	3.281	2.725	Urban	-0.556
509	1875354.090	243191.508	8.202	7.870	Urban	-0.332
508	1874900.745	242412.737	2.657	2.583	Urban	-0.075
653	1638813.159	110020.023	6.201	6.127	Urban	-0.073
505	1874648.219	241134.459	16.962	16.915	Urban	-0.047



652	1638635.962	109241.350	15.256	15.231	Urban	-0.025
607	1529345.596	435705.789	9.285	9.310	Urban	0.025
634	1499927.938	126794.136	10.663	10.694	Urban	0.032
635	1500082.269	127563.393	9.318	9.398	Urban	0.080
522	1496326.371	232370.828	15.518	15.649	Urban	0.130
604	1526818.272	437900.535	6.824	7.019	Urban	0.195
517	1498877.842	214051.704	6.332	6.559	Urban	0.227
523	1495898.747	231865.678	12.861	13.088	Urban	0.227
619	1469393.682	293368.541	7.054	7.320	Urban	0.266
521	1496036.116	233122.270	17.290	17.557	Urban	0.267
643	1502651.588	136527.877	27.461	27.760	Urban	0.299
637	1500557.202	129656.073	26.640	26.977	Urban	0.336
638	1500776.756	131204.364	49.573	50.000	Urban	0.427
520	1498595.067	214972.109	14.403	14.853	Urban	0.450
626	1479959.803	271025.606	15.945	16.407	Urban	0.462
625	1476419.685	281298.978	12.926	13.423	Urban	0.497

Kauai

Nauai						
pointNo	easting	northing	elevation	zLidar	LandCoverType	DeltaZ
433	1695878.564	74702.114	12.500	11.250	Open Terrain	-1.250
316	1610093.401	25129.969	4.659	3.833	Open Terrain	-0.825
435	1694979.779	77107.260	4.888	4.169	Open Terrain	-0.719
314	1610510.132	24229.906	10.269	9.583	Open Terrain	-0.686
311	1609716.630	26321.240	6.102	5.500	Open Terrain	-0.602
411	1584471.864	42255.427	9.908	9.376	Open Terrain	-0.533
419	1652592.823	16754.166	41.306	40.839	Open Terrain	-0.467
315	1612407.274	23029.350	36.778	36.333	Open Terrain	-0.445
308	1548561.043	74486.990	11.352	10.917	Open Terrain	-0.435
320	1608029.166	26899.421	9.908	9.583	Open Terrain	-0.325
420	1655198.297	15731.629	18.898	18.583	Open Terrain	-0.314
302	1547853.138	64564.799	3.937	3.651	Open Terrain	-0.286
425	1701889.870	85263.773	6.004	5.750	Open Terrain	-0.254
403	1575121.456	46518.312	7.087	6.833	Open Terrain	-0.253
309	1546004.093	74107.398	7.907	7.667	Open Terrain	-0.240
424	1700963.134	81335.730	9.186	9.000	Open Terrain	-0.186
304	1547291.164	66959.709	1.837	1.667	Open Terrain	-0.171
408	1584090.959	43429.277	6.988	6.833	Open Terrain	-0.155
326	1689400.525	45113.296	10.203	10.083	Open Terrain	-0.120
325	1690263.385	43647.813	4.626	4.667	Open Terrain	0.041
438	1695753.367	76768.416	15.584	14.608	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.976
319	1603558.309	24476.788	6.037	5.167	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.870
434	1695445.855	76265.530	42.880	42.417	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.464
321	1693934.375	45946.201	83.005	82.583	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.422
313	1610680.014	27031.573	4.298	3.911	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.387
318	1610181.425	28768.676	4.692	4.333	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.358
423	1656067.751	15647.278	30.184	29.834	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.350
407	1582585.811	44418.349	8.235	7.917	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.318
427	1700185.084	82585.924	4.134	3.833	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.301
310	1606187.864	23652.479	23.031	22.760	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.272
439	1696486.371	78549.646	8.989	8.750	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.239
428	1697312.944	79807.747	14.961	14.750	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.211
327	1687198.332	42074.260	2.756	2.617	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.139
402	1572382.091	46551.810	9.711	9.583	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.128
322	1689889.107	46861.980	4.101	4.014	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.087
307	1546341.297	71616.359	3.150	3.153	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.004
303	1547814.096	66347.243	1.575	1.667	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.092
324	1690325.392	45195.218	6.430	6.583	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.153



415	1651531.736	16329.856	18.110	18.333	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.223
306	1545470.072	68825.683	2.756	3.000	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.244
DH5813	1550358.743	63681.992	12.566	12.817	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.252
429	1699153.721	80710.239	7.316	7.667	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.350
305	1545961.311	67613.644	3.051	3.600	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.549
DH5814	1546538.180	72463.044	6.693	7.384	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.691
312	1609935.396	27364.414	4.167	3.250	Urban	-0.917
436	1694316.428	77437.804	4.134	3.361	Urban	-0.773
422	1657514.959	13871.035	12.697	11.985	Urban	-0.712
409	1585104.343	44912.804	5.774	5.167	Urban	-0.608
417	1648711.466	17548.193	7.283	6.742	Urban	-0.541
426	1701823.663	83767.254	9.482	9.000	Urban	-0.482
416	1650386.332	16558.267	13.058	12.583	Urban	-0.474
430	1695571.248	72742.243	20.669	20.203	Urban	-0.466
406	1582760.548	46103.025	32.940	32.500	Urban	-0.440
413	1652583.506	15684.942	8.104	7.667	Urban	-0.437
432	1695406.878	74061.138	38.156	37.750	Urban	-0.406
404	1579096.612	46314.212	8.071	7.667	Urban	-0.404
421	1656336.189	14600.857	12.467	12.093	Urban	-0.375
437	1694005.536	69910.720	29.856	29.500	Urban	-0.356
414	1652920.480	15795.277	9.285	8.954	Urban	-0.331
317	1610664.397	28358.638	7.119	6.833	Urban	-0.286
418	1644834.506	18328.671	10.663	10.417	Urban	-0.246
329	1688277.923	42546.306	4.035	3.833	Urban	-0.202
412	1585071.272	42910.544	31.923	31.750	Urban	-0.173
328	1686148.891	42365.138	8.727	8.587	Urban	-0.140
330	1687232.977	43455.228	6.890	6.837	Urban	-0.053
323	1690008.070	45987.146	12.598	12.583	Urban	-0.015
331	1689208.728	44241.644	5.381	5.500	Urban	0.119
410	1587394.135	47852.857	11.089	11.500	Urban	0.411

Oahu

pointNo	е	n	elevation	zLidar	LandCoverType	DeltaZ
TU0617	1593652.160	73676.296	12.172	11.167	Open Terrain	-1.005
102.000	1556078.351	141302.900	21.096	20.590	Open Terrain	-0.505
TU0329	1735344.266	42726.981	4.364	3.874	Open Terrain	-0.489
218.000	1642964.201	59696.731	17.552	17.072	Open Terrain	-0.481
205.000	1569597.976	107011.203	8.793	8.370	Open Terrain	-0.423
215.000	1633290.139	51325.258	7.743	7.331	Open Terrain	-0.412
212.000	1643269.351	54007.569	3.707	3.373	Open Terrain	-0.335
217.000	1639543.571	55820.262	15.486	15.172	Open Terrain	-0.314
229.000	1649378.624	77738.526	9.154	8.844	Open Terrain	-0.309
127.000	1677766.953	58004.412	5.905	5.625	Open Terrain	-0.281
220.000	1739400.819	36404.980	38.845	38.582	Open Terrain	-0.263
206.000	1576460.659	103577.975	14.403	14.154	Open Terrain	-0.249
124.000	1681794.701	50590.712	6.168	5.941	Open Terrain	-0.227
104.000	1562791.888	130710.533	20.899	20.713	Open Terrain	-0.186
121.000	1679368.689	51075.554	7.283	7.131	Open Terrain	-0.152
240.000	1649789.811	80737.896	20.341	20.246	Open Terrain	-0.095
131.000	1678265.607	54821.249	11.975	11.880	Open Terrain	-0.095
109.000	1607492.225	48418.965	10.072	10.029	Open Terrain	-0.044
128.000	1679997.132	55606.385	12.467	12.431	Open Terrain	-0.037
110.000	1606641.734	48284.221	9.121	9.089	Open Terrain	-0.032
101.000	1562776.664	132905.968	16.831	16.816	Open Terrain	-0.015
225.000	1740643.599	43807.622	7.546	7.558	Open Terrain	0.012
222.000	1740878.014	41754.182	8.301	7.851	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.450
204.000	1566217.012	112108.404	15.387	14.971	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.416
111.000	1605811.060	48019.195	8.497	8.140	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.358

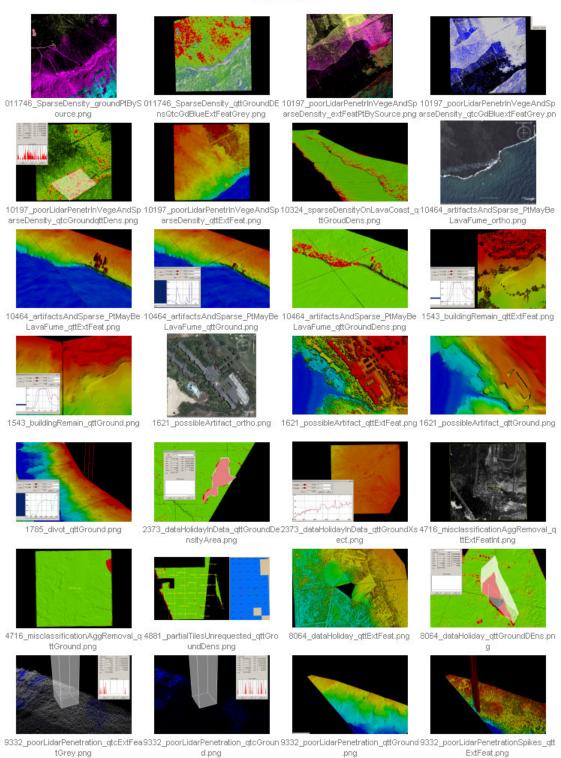


224.000	1744571.675	45925.367	7.480	7.204	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.276
106.000	1562438.509	121074.102	14.764	14.509	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.254
113.000	1604652.959	47702.890	8.071	7.838	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.233
114.000	1607076.248	49654.363	13.025	12.862	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.163
211.000	1640572.211	53661.474	6.070	5.929	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.141
122.000	1680676.265	51164.563	6.923	6.790	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.133
116.000	1602488.035	49882.971	5.643	5.524	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.119
TU1679	1640845.832	53731.717	5.545	5.503	Weeds/Crop/Forest	-0.041
125.000	1684391.677	48654.299	6.496	6.592	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.096
216.000	1635679.373	54002.025	9.875	9.980	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.105
126.000	1683822.945	50190.746	5.479	5.618	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.139
119.000	1678897.561	52502.487	9.121	9.469	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.348
203.000	1561963.576	115028.444	15.617	16.018	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.402
105.000	1563044.741	127078.978	19.554	19.974	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.420
226.000	1736823.036	43062.873	9.842	10.414	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.572
115.000	1608828.935	48542.029	10.827	11.512	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.686
223.000	1742104.062	44509.721	7.940	8.929	Weeds/Crop/Forest	0.989
236.000	1650950.241	76948.042	14.993	14.278	Urban	-0.715
230.000	1650398.602	75086.530	8.465	7.793	Urban	-0.672
207.000	1580724.398	95495.806	8.333	7.703	Urban	-0.630
232.000	1651207.393	75705.032	13.386	12.813	Urban	-0.573
231.000	1649510.481	75158.445	12.631	12.085	Urban	-0.546
120.000	1678226.105	52643.989	3.871	3.400	Urban	-0.471
237.000	1650563.628	77908.374	8.333	7.959	Urban	-0.374
238.000	1649649.949	78054.601	12.434	12.098	Urban	-0.336
235.000	1649439.254	76704.866	15.026	14.717	Urban	-0.309
112.000	1605964.701	47424.774	5.282	4.989	Urban	-0.293
107.000	1567134.933	109788.570	18.471	18.184	Urban	-0.287
234.000	1649114.287	75753.326	11.220	10.941	Urban	-0.279
221.000	1740810.462	39247.691	11.647	11.375	Urban	-0.272
208.000	1581173.117	86913.507	15.551	15.345	Urban	-0.206
108.000	1608093.667	48530.743	10.597	10.411	Urban	-0.186
117.000	1604418.182	48837.632	10.597	10.459	Urban	-0.138
239.000	1649908.741	78924.908	8.957	8.860	Urban	-0.097
213.000	1636753.091	52416.299	4.757	4.669	Urban	-0.089
129.000	1680045.984	58822.947	19.751	19.664	Urban	-0.086
123.000	1683404.376	49952.492	6.496	6.430	Urban	-0.066
233.000	1650685.609	76227.439	11.122	11.099	Urban	-0.023
214.000	1635350.371	51999.896	6.365	6.405	Urban	0.040

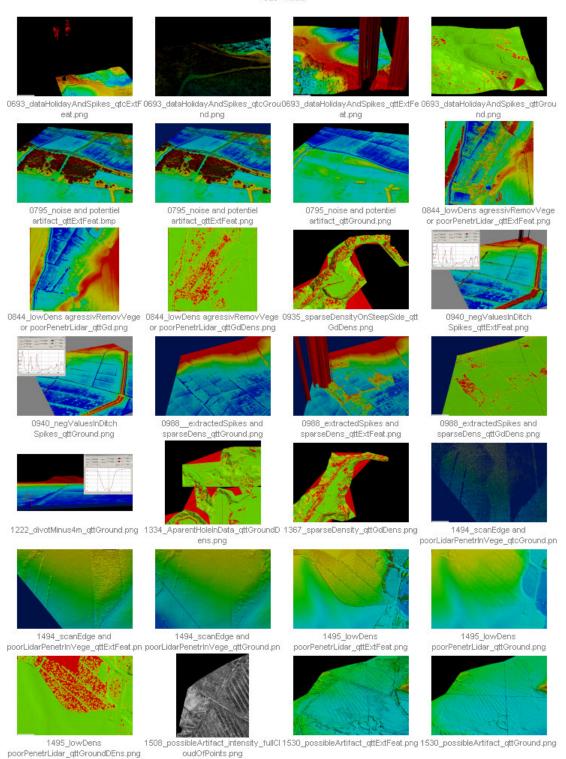


Appendix C Qualitative issues contact sheets

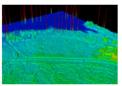
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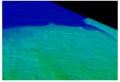


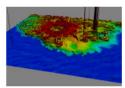
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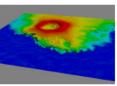


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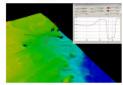








1537_spikesAndAgressivRemovalOf 1537_spikesAndAgressivRemovalOf 1545_craterWithSpikes_qttExtFeat.pn 1545_craterWithSpikes_qttground.pn Veg_qttExtFeat.png Veg_qttGround.png g g

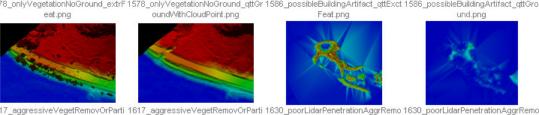


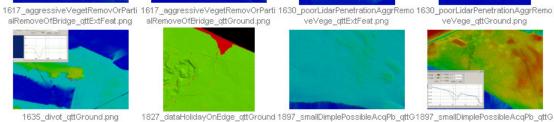
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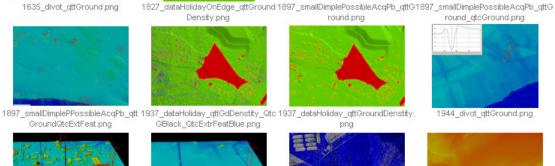
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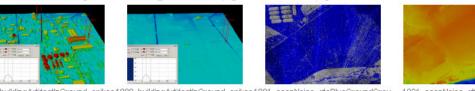


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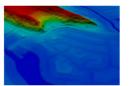




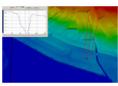


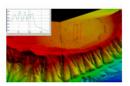
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TO26 - Oahu





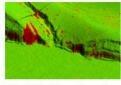




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2032_divot_qttGround.png

2160_possibleArtifact_qttGround.png





2171_dataholiday_qttGround.png 2171_dataholiday_qttGroundDensityQ tcExtFeat.png